315/84
A3275-2

TRENDS

ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

Office of Information
and Public Affairs
1920 L Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20036
(202) 835-9555

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, March 1, 1984 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended February 25 totaled an estimated 17.3 billion ton-miles, 14.4 percent above the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first eight weeks of 1984 was an estimated 134.0 billion ton-miles, 11.5 percent above the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended February 25 totaled 392,633 cars, 13.3 percent above 1983, but 1.7 percent lower than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were up 17.9 percent in the East, 12.5 percent in the South and 10.8 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1983, 16 of the 21 commodity groups were up. Coal loadings were up 15.4 percent, reaching 117,494 cars -- their highest level in more than 16 months. Also gaining substantially were motor vehicles and equipment loadings, up 4,439 cars, or 27.1 percent; and metallic ores, up 4,027 cars, or 36.0 percent. Ten of the 21 groups were up from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended February 18 totaled 49,533 cars, up 12.8 percent from the corresponding week of 1983, and 87,162 trailers and/or containers, 14.6 percent higher than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first seven weeks of the year was 332,554 cars, 15.3 percent higher than last year, and 583,482 trailers and/or containers, up 18.1 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 2/25/84:

	Loadings in Week ended February 25, 1984		Change from Corresponding Week 1983			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	25,036	I	769	3.2	D	4,838	16.2
Other farm products	4,636	I	1,432	44.7	I	16	0.4
Metallic ores	15,198	I	4,027	36.0	I	198	1.3
Coal	117,494	I	15,721	15.4	I	950	0.8
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	9,379	I	2,007	27.2	I	496	5.6
Nonmetallic minerals	10,740	I	2,185	25.5	D	181	1.7
Grain mill products	10,837	D	662	5.8	D	1,027	8.7
Food and kindred products	10,344	D	2,075	16.7	D	800	7.2
Primary forest products	14,616	D	303	2.0	I	451	3.2
Lumber and wood products except furniture	8,024	I	635	8.6	I	382	5.0
Pulp, paper and allied products	15,198	D	182	1.2	I	420	2.8
Chemicals and allied products	25,032	I	1,953	8.5	D	1,358	5.2
Petroleum products	4,315	I	66	1.6	D	523	10.8
Stone, clay and glass products	10,844	I	2,105	24.1	I	205	1.9
Coke	4,833	D	117	2.4	I	83	1.8
Metals and products	10,805	I	2,239	26.1	I	368	3.5
Motor vehicles and equipment	20,810	I	4,439	27.1	D	81	0.4
Waste and scrap materials	10,837	I	3,124	40.5	D	374	3.3
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	10,071	I	1,561	18.3	D	41	0.4
All other carloads	53,322	I	6,975	15.0	D	926	1.7
LCL traffic	262	I	58	28.4	D	33	11.2
Total Cars Loaded	392,633	I	45,957	13.3	D	6,613	1.7
Corresponding week of 1983	346,676						

	1984	1983	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (8 weeks)	3,021,671	2,722,026	I 11.0
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
7 weeks ended February 18	116.8	105.1	I 11.1
Week ended February 25	17.3	15.1	I 14.4
8 weeks cumulative	134.0	120.2	I 11.5

AARt-030184